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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1) (Currently Amended) A method of determining the formation factor of an underground zone from drill cuttings taken to the wellbore surface, wherein a device including a cell ~~(1)~~ suited to contain cuttings and provided with electrodes connected to a device for measuring the conductivity of the cell content is used, the method comprising at least the following stages:

- cleaning said cuttings before setting them in the cell,

- filling the cell with a first electrolyte solution ~~(A)~~ of known conductivity (σ_A) so as to saturate the cuttings with this first electrolyte solution ~~(A)~~,

- measuring the global electrical conductivity (σ^*_A) of the cell with the content thereof,

- discharging the first electrolyte solution ~~(A)~~ remaining between the cuttings from the cell,

- filling the cell with a second electrolyte solution ~~(B)~~ of known conductivity (σ_B),

- determining the global electrical conductivity (σ^*_B) of the cell containing second electrolyte solution ~~(B)~~ and the cuttings saturated with first electrolyte solution ~~(A)~~,

- deducing therefrom the cuttings formation factor ~~(FF)~~ from the previous

conductivity measurements and known conductivities of the first and second electrolyte solutions.

2) (Currently Amended) A method of determining the formation factor of an underground zone from drill cuttings taken to the wellbore surface, wherein a device including a cell suited to contain cuttings and provided with electrodes connected to a device for measuring the conductivity of the cell content is used, the method comprising at least the following stages:

- cleaning said cuttings before setting them in the cell,

~~as claimed in claim 1, wherein~~ - saturating the cuttings ~~are saturated~~ with carbon dioxide by injection of this gas into the cell, ~~prior to~~then

-filling the cell with a first electrolyte solution ~~(A)~~of known conductivity (σ_A) so as to saturate the cuttings with this first electrolyte solution,

- measuring the global electrical conductivity (σ^*_A) of the cell with the content thereof,

- discharging the first electrolyte solution remaining between the cuttings from the cell,

- filling the cell with a second electrolyte solution of known conductivity (σ_B),

- determining the global electrical conductivity (σ^*_B) of the cell containing second electrolyte solution and the cuttings saturated with first electrolyte solution,

- deducing therefrom the cuttings formation factor from the previous measurements.

3) (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrolyte solutions are brines of different concentrations.

4) (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the concentration and the conductivity of first electrolyte solution ~~(A)~~ are higher than those of second solution ~~(B)~~.

5) (Currently Amended) A method of determining the formation factor of an underground zone from drill cuttings taken to the wellbore surface, wherein a device including a cell suited to contain cuttings and provided with electrodes connected to a device for measuring the conductivity of the cell content is used, the method comprising at least the following stages:

- cleaning said cuttings before setting them in the cell,

- filling the cell with a first electrolyte solution of known conductivity (σ_A) so as to saturate the cuttings with this first electrolyte solution,

- measuring the global electrical conductivity (σ^*_A) of the cell with the content thereof,

~~as claimed in claim 1, wherein~~ - discharging the first electrolyte solution ~~(A)~~ remaining between the cuttings ~~is discharged~~ from the cell by gravity draining,

- filling the cell with a second electrolyte solution of known conductivity (σ_B),

- determining the global electrical conductivity (σ^*_B) of the cell containing second electrolyte solution and the cuttings saturated with first electrolyte solution,

- deducing therefrom the cuttings formation factor from the previous measurements.

6) (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein first electrolyte solution ~~(A)~~ is discharged by air injection.

7) (Original) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the pressure of the air injected is determined according to the pore size of the cuttings.

8) (Original) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein gravity drainage is improved by capillary desorption.

9) (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein capillary desorption is carried out by means of a semipermeable membrane allowing passage of the first electrolyte solution but not of air.

10) (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the formation factor is determined from the mean field theory.

11) (Currently Amended) A device for implementing ~~the~~ a method of determining the formation factor of an underground zone from drill cuttings taken to the wellbore surface, wherein a device including a cell suited to contain cuttings and provided with electrodes connected to a device for measuring the conductivity of the cell content is used, the method comprising

at least the following stages: cleaning said cuttings before setting them in the cell, filling the cell with a first electrolyte solution of known conductivity (σ_A) so as to saturate the cuttings with this first electrolyte solution, measuring the global electrical conductivity (σ^*_A) of the cell with the content thereof, discharging the first electrolyte solution remaining between the cuttings from the cell, filling the cell with a second electrolyte solution of known conductivity (σ_B), determining the global electrical conductivity (σ^*_B) of the cell containing second electrolyte solution and the cuttings saturated with first electrolyte solution, deducing therefrom the cuttings formation factor from the previous measurements~~as claimed in claim 1~~, characterized in that ~~it~~ the device comprises:

- means of saturating the cuttings contained in the cell with CO_2,

- means intended for fast draining of the electrolyte solution contained between the cuttings.

12) (Original) A device as claimed in claim 11, wherein said draining means comprise a semipermeable membrane permeable to the brine and impermeable to air.

13) (Currently Amended) A method of determining the formation factor of an underground zone from drill cuttings taken to the wellbore surface, wherein a device including a cell suited to contain cuttings and provided with electrodes connected to a device for measuring the conductivity of the cell content is used, the method comprising at least the following stages:

- cleaning said cuttings before setting them in the cell,

- filling the cell with a first electrolyte solution of known conductivity (σ_A) so as to saturate the cuttings with this first electrolyte solution,

- measuring the global electrical conductivity (σ^*_A) of the cell with the content thereof,

~~as claimed in claim 1 wherein~~ - discharging the first electrolyte solution ~~(A) is discharged~~ remaining between the cuttings from the cell by air injection,

- filling the cell with a second electrolyte solution of known conductivity (σ_B),

- determining the global electrical conductivity (σ^*_B) of the cell containing second electrolyte solution and the cuttings saturated with first electrolyte solution,

- deducing therefrom the cuttings formation factor from the previous measurements.

14) (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the pressure of the air injected is determined according to the pore size of the cuttings.